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PRODUCTIVITY AND ROOF CONTROL OF THE MOSCOW BASIN COAL INDUSTRY

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Productivity

Miners of the Moscow basin completed the 1952 plan ahead of schedule. The average daily output was more than two trainloads above that of 1951, and the plan for development work was also exceeded. Labor productivity increased 4.7 percent, and production costs per ton of fuel dropped 3 rubles 65 kopeks.(1) Miners of the basin are honorably fulfilling their pre-May obligations.(2)

Moskvougol' Combine

On 30 April, the Moskvougol' Combine completed the 4-month plan for the extraction and shipping of coal, and it has already delivered tens of trainloads of coal on its May quota.(3)

Stalinogorskugol' Trust

On 23 April, miners of Mine No 15-bis of the Stalinogorskugol' Trust reported fulfillment of the 4-month plan for coal output. They have delivered the first carloads of fuel on their May quotas.⁽⁴⁾ The Second Kamenetskaya Mine, also of the Stalinogorskugol' Trust, is lagging. The trust has been forced to assign this mine a very modest quota, and even this is fulfilled only rarely.⁽⁵⁾

Donskoyugol' Trust

Mine No 41 of the Donskoyugol' Trust mined six trainloads of coal above the plan in April.(3)

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Krasnoarmeyskugol' and Molotovugol' Trusts

Workers of Mine No 1/2 of the Krasnoarmeyskugol' Trust and Mine No 3 of the Molotovugol' Trust completed their 4-month quotas ahead of schedule.(4) Mine No 2 of the Molotovugol' Trust is one of the oldest coal enterprises in the Uzlovskiy Rayon, and some of its sections are located at a distance of more than 2 kilometers from the shaft. Recently, the first underground trolley in the Moscow basin started to operate in this mine. It is made up of ten cars and transports at one time all miners working in distant sections.(6)

Tulaugol' Combine: Skuratovugol' Trust

Miners of a section of Mine No 9 of the Skuratovugol' Trust are delivering twice as much coal as is provided for by their quotas.(2)

Roof Control

Friable, small-grained sands or sands with an admixture of clay lie directly above the coal seam in a considerable number of mines of the Moscow basin. The thickness of this immediate sandy roof varies, amounting, in some cases, to 20-30 meters. A typical example of such a sandy, unstable roof is to be found in the roof of the coal seam in Mine No 34 of the Krasnoarmeyskugol' Trust. A number of other mines in the basin have similar roofs.

Sandy roofs are unstable and do not permit extraction of coal without leaving in the roof a protecting layer of coal. Friable sand can fall in great masses and with great speed, even when only slight areas of the roof are exposed. If the protecting layer of coal breaks away, sudden localized falls of sand occur, and these extend rapidly, leading to a partial or complete obstruction of the face.

Observations carried out by the Moscow Scientific Research Coal Institute indicate that the greatest amount of pressure on props at faces with sandy roofs, under normal conditions of working the face, does not exceed 35-40 tons per square meter of roof area being supported. In connection with the props, the lack of uniformity in the durability of the vertical and horizontal units must be taken into consideration, as well as the slight supporting power of the protecting layer of coal, and the thickness of the prop must be somewhat increased so as to decrease the span of the roof between points of support.

Different amounts of mine timbers are used for propping purposes, depending on the particular propping regulations being followed: in one case 56.8 cubic meters of mine timbers are used per 1,000 tons of coal output; in another, 55 cubic meters; and in a third, 44 cubic meters.(7)

Wooden props have been used in Moscow basin coal mines in an overwhelming majority of cases up to now. Investigations and observations carried out in 1950 - 1951 by the Moskvougol' Combine and the Moscow NIUI (Scientific Research Coal Institute) established that main-passage props in Moscow basin mines become unfit for service, in 60 percent of all cases, because of rotting. The ordinary wooden prop goes out of commission in 3-5 years when supporting stable rock, in 2-3 years when supporting medium stable rock, in one to 2 years when supporting unstable rock, and in less than a year when supporting very unstable rock. At the same time, main passages have a service period of 3-8 years for about 44 percent of their entire extent and more than 8 years for about 41 percent.

Every year, it is necessary to install new props in about 33 percent of the main haulage passages and in 22 percent of main ventilation passages. This results in a great outlay of labor, funds, and mine timbers. The consumption of

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mine timbers in repropping one linear meter is from 0.48-1.34 cubic meters and, when the rock to be supported is particularly soft, up to 2.38 cubic meters. Up to 120,000 cubic meters of new mine timbers are used every year to reprop main passages in mines of the Moskvougol' Combine.

To cut down on expenditure of labor, money, and mine timbers, new types of props were designed of impregnated timber, metal, and reinforced concrete. In these new props, the tie beams were made of wood, and these had to be replaced periodically. Experiments in the use of reinforced concrete for the tie beams proved successful, and the production of reinforced-concrete tie beams was organized at the cinder-block plant of the Moskvougol' Combine. During 9 months of 1952, nearly 60,000 reinforced-concrete tie beams were manufactured and put into use in mines of the Moskvougol' Combine, where they contributed toward the propping of more than 2,000 meters of mine workings.(8)

SOURCES

1. Moscow, Moskovskaya Pravda, 25 Feb 53
2. Moscow, Pravda, 27 Apr 53
3. Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 1 May 53
4. Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 25 Apr 53
5. Moskovskaya Pravda, 10 May 53
6. Moscow, Master Uglya, No 1, 53
7. Moscow, Ugol', No 5, 53
8. Ibid., No 4, 53

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